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February 15, 2016

Health Policy Committee
Senator Mike Shirkey, Chair
Michigan Senate
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Re: Support HB 4812

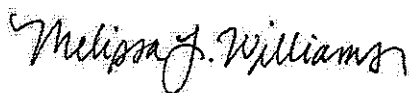
Dear Chairman Shirkey:

The National Patient Advocate Foundation (NPAF) serves as a voice for patients across America in regard to legislation and regulations that will benefit patient rights and needs. This letter is in regard to HB 4812, legislation that would permit a pharmacist to fill a prescription for a biological product to select an alternative, interchangeable biological product if the prescriber does not personally indicate to not substitute. Our position on this issue is as follows:

- NPAF recommends that state and federal laws should facilitate patient access to new and innovative medications and therapies that have been approved by the US Food and Drug and Administration.
- NPAF recommends that all decisions for the use of new and innovative medication and therapies be made transparently and with the consent of the patient and provider.
- NPAF recommends that in any transition to a new or alternative medication or therapy, the patient and health provider must be directly informed of the transition and agree to the change.

We believe that biosimilars can improve access and expand treatment options for Michigan patients with chronic, debilitating, and life-threatening diseases, but we also feel that they must be prescribed and administered with transparency and concurrence. Please consider our position on biosimilars as you deliberate on HB 4812.

Sincerely,



Melissa Lorenzo Williams
Coordinator, State Government Relations

cc: Members, Senate Health Policy Committee